



In 2008, an estimated 515,000 people were injured while 5,870 people lost their lives in police-reported crashes in which at least one form of driver distraction was reported.

We are living in a technologically advanced world, where every day children, adults, and seniors are using cell phones to communicate with friends and family, MP3 players to listen to their favorite music, and GPS systems to navigate in and around the state.

However, many of whom that use the devices do not realize it will visually and manually affect their ability from concentrating on their primary task -driving.

I applaud Secretary LaHood and the Department of Transportation for taking a proactive approach in curbing distracted driving in our nation, through the [“Put it Down” campaign](#) , [a federal ban of texting by drivers in commercial vehicles](#) , and today’s announcement of Hartford being chosen as one of two locations in the nation to receive \$200,000 in federal funding for the pilot program “[Phone in One hand, Ticket in the Other” campaign.](#)

I am proud to partner with the Department of Transportation on this mission to end distracted driving in our nation and will continue to advocate how this unsafe and careless act can produce tragic results on our roads.

Distracted driving is a problem and it’s time for all of us to help make our roads safer.